HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

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Dr. Bruce Halliday, Chair,
Standing Committee on Health and
Welfare,
348 West Block,
House of Commons

Dear Dr. Halliday:

I would like to request that some of the committee's time be set aside to arrange to hear from several groups and individuals representing the Environmentally Sensitive.

Environmental Sensitivity is a condition about which little is known. In Ontario, more research was recommended by both the Ad Hoc Committee on Environmental Hypersensitivity, chaired by George W. Thomson, and the subsequent Advisory Panel which examined the Thomson Report, convened by The Hospital for Sick Children and chaired by Dr. Barry Zimmerman.

Because the condition can manifest itself in a number of ways, and because it can easily be mistaken for allergies, stress, etc., Doctors have a difficult time making an early diagnosis or recognizing it at all.

The victims of this disease feel they are constantly fighting being labelled as neurotic. For this reason they have dropped the "hyper" from hypersensitivity.

The process of holding hearings for them to explain their situation and state their case in the Health and Welfare Committee, would, they hope, help to legitimize their condition and educate their elected representatives. It would also help to clear lines of communication for them with the Department of Health and Welfare where there seems to have been somewhat of a communications breakdown.

I have the names of two groups and one individual who would be more than willing to attend a Committee meeting here in Ottawa. Would you please ensure that this matter is raised tomorrow at the subcommittee meeting on future business of the Committee.

Sincerely,

Margaret Mitchell, M.P.
Vancouver East

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